

Exhibit A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

LYNN STARKEY,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No. 1:19-cv-03153-RLY-TAB
)	
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF)	
INDIANAPOLIS, INC., and)	
RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL, INC.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**ENTRY ON DEFENDANTS' OBJECTION TO MAGISTRATE'S ORDER ON
MOTION TO BIFURCATE DISCOVERY**

Now pending before the court is Defendants' objection to the magistrate judge's order denying bifurcation of discovery. Defendants ask this court to modify the order and grant Defendants' motion to limit initial discovery to the applicability of the ministerial exception.

The facts of this case are laid out in detail in this court's order on Defendants' motion for judgment on the pleadings. On October 16, 2019, Starkey served Defendants with written discovery requests. (Filing No. 27-7, First Requests for Production at Requests; Filing No. 27-8, First Set of Interrogatories). Defendants partially responded to Starkey's discovery requests but declined to produce any documents that were not relevant to the ministerial exception. (Filing No. 46-1, Defendants' Discovery Log). Defendants filed a motion to bifurcate discovery on November 7, 2019, requesting that

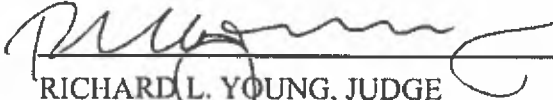
initial discovery be limited to the ministerial exception. (Filing No. 25). The magistrate judge denied Defendants' motion on December 20, 2019, and Defendants appealed.

The case has developed substantially since then. On March 24, 2020, the Archdiocese filed a motion for judgment on the pleadings, arguing all of Starkey's claims are barred by Title VII and Title IX's religious exemptions and the First Amendment. On October 21, 2020, this court granted in part and denied in part the motion for judgment on the pleadings, granting the motion in favor of the Archdiocese on the Title IX claim but allowing the Title VII and state law claims to proceed. The Archdiocese then filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings on December 23, 2020. In that motion, the Archdiocese argues that Starkey's claims are barred by, among other defenses, the ministerial exception.

The present appeal asks this court to limit discovery to the applicability of the ministerial exception. That issue is now moot. The parties addressed the ministerial exception in their summary judgment briefing, and if the court concludes Starkey qualifies as a minister, the case may be over. If that ruling leaves any issues remaining, or the court determines the ministerial exception does not apply, the parties are free to address remaining discovery issues at that point.

Accordingly, Defendants' Appeal and Objection to Magistrate's Order on Motion to Bifurcate Discovery (Filing No. 42) is **DENIED as MOOT**.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of March 2021.



RICHARD L. YOUNG, JUDGE
United States District Court
Southern District of Indiana

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